



U.S. Immigration
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News Release

ICE ADDS MS-13 GANG MEMBER TO ITS “MOST WANTED” LIST

Nearly 200 MS-13 Gang Members Apprehended Nationwide by ICE Since February

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Michael J. Garcia, Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), today announced that ICE is adding a violent gang member -- who has a string of felony convictions and is wanted for questioning in connection with several murders in Los Angeles -- to its list of “Most Wanted” fugitives. Rivera is the first member of the gang Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) to make the ICE Most Wanted fugitives list.



David Rivera (a.k.a. Gerber Alfaro Bonilla and Herbert Bonilla), a known member of MS-13, is wanted by ICE on charges of re-entering the United States after deportation, pursuant to a January 4, 2005 complaint issued in the Central District of California. The violation carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison. A warrant has been issued for his arrest.

Rivera is also wanted for questioning by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) in connection with a string of murders in Los Angeles that were carried out in his name between 1999 and 2001. The LAPD also seeks to question Rivera about his suspected drug activity in Los Angeles.

Rivera’s criminal record includes past convictions for lewd and lascivious acts with a minor; possession of a firearm by a felon; illegal possession of ammunition; and repeated convictions for possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell. Rivera went into hiding after his arrest on charges of raping a 12-year-old girl and witness intimidation in April 2001. The rape charges against Rivera were dropped after the chief witness in the case was found murdered.

Rivera is 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighs 135 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes. He also has a mole close to his right eye. His last known address was 619 S Rampart Blvd. # 206 Los Angeles, Calif., 90057. Rivera has family ties in the Los Angeles area. He was born in Mexico and has provided the following birth dates: 10/26/1974, 10/25/1978 and 11/25/1978.

“David Rivera is a violent and dangerous criminal who needs to be taken off the streets as soon as possible. One of our most important homeland security missions at ICE is ensuring public safety. With the public’s help and tools like the ‘Most Wanted’ fugitives list, we can work together to identify, apprehend and prosecute fugitives like David Rivera who pose a direct threat to our communities,” said Assistant Secretary Garcia.

The search for Rivera is part of ICE's national anti-gang initiative called "Operation Community Shield." Launched in January 2005 with arrests commencing the following month, this initiative has resulted in the apprehension of nearly 200 MS-13 members in cities across the country.

Operation Community Shield is designed to disrupt, dismantle, and prosecute violent gang organizations by employing the full range of authorities and investigative tools available to ICE. Under this initiative, ICE is employing its broad immigration authorities (both criminal and administrative) against gang members, as well as its customs authorities in targeting narcotics smuggling, money laundering, and in seeking the forfeiture of assets.

This initiative also involves strong partnerships and cooperation with existing federal, state, and local anti-gang efforts. Such partnerships are essential to the success of the initiative and to ensure officer safety during operations. ICE will also be working through its 54 Attaché offices overseas to cooperate with foreign governments that are also experiencing gang problems, particularly those in Central America.

The ICE Most Wanted fugitives list is one of several steps that ICE has taken to prioritize criminal threats and focus operational resources where they can be most effective. The list features individuals who have been charged with serious crimes, who have eluded law enforcement, and who pose a continuing threat to public safety and to our homeland.

Other ICE Most Wanted fugitives are charged with crimes that include international arms trafficking, drug smuggling, child pornography distribution, and human rights violations.

ICE's Most Wanted fugitives are given a top law enforcement priority. The list is posted on the ICE website at www.ice.gov, enabling the public to view the criminal aliens and call in tips on their whereabouts. Anyone with information about those on the list should call ICE's toll-free number at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. The lines are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.